REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to their attorney, B. Joe Kim, during the telephone interview conducted on December 5, 2007. No agreement was reached. The Examiner, however, suggested that Applicants submit the arguments presented during the telephone interview in writing, so that she can give them further consideration. The following remarks include the arguments presented during the interview.

Claims 1-5, 7-12 and 14-18 stand rejected under § 103 on the basis of Prompt et al. and O'Flaherty et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, because the cited references, alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the dictionary registering unit or the dictionary reference unit, as described in the claims. The cited references, even if combined, also would not disclose or suggest searching data from both personal data and common data.

As shown in Fig. 1, the present invention includes a table storing unit 15 for storing in the database 11, common data accessible to a predetermined user and other users. The table storing unit 15 also includes a personal table storing unit 151 that stores in the database 11, personal data entered by the predetermined user (and not by other users). A dictionary registering unit 16 stores common information stored in the database 11 in a common dictionary 121 accessible by the predetermined user and other users. The dictionary registering unit further includes a personal dictionary registering unit 161 that registers personal data that is accessible only by the predetermined user in a personal dictionary 122.

A dictionary reference unit 17 outputs the personal information from the personal table to the predetermined user only, and accepts selection of personal data and common data from the predetermined user. A searching unit 18 searches data from the personal data and the common data based on the selection accepted by the dictionary reference unit.

The present invention improves the usefulness of the database because data which is not common data, accessible to all users, can be stored as separate personal data accessible only to the predetermined user for personal use. Moreover, by using personal information stored in a personal dictionary, accessible only to the predetermined user, for searching data from the personal data and the common data, it is possible for the predetermined user to prevent an unexpected modification of the personal information on either of or both management and analysis of personal data and common data by other users, and to perform a database search customized for the predetermined user.

Under the heading "A. Virtual Directory Server" (paragraphs [0161] to [0174]), the Prompt et al. reference illustrates an example of data source access and capturing of schema to establish a hierarchal directory. Prompt et al. merely discloses a database management apparatus for transforming relational data stored in a relational database into a hierarchical directory data.

The Examiner contends that the claimed dictionary registering unit for storing common information in a common dictionary accessible by all users, and storing personal information in a personal dictionary accessible only by a predetermined user, is disclosed on page 16, paragraph [0172] of Prompt et al.

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Paragraph [0172] describes generating a node in a DirectoryView Tree, and saving the definition in a directory view file. The paragraph discloses that a schema can be selected by a "user." However, the cited portion of the reference does not disclose or suggest whether the schema or any other data described is common information stored in a common dictionary accessible by all users, or personal information stored in a personal dictionary accessible only by the predetermined user. The reference also does not disclose or suggest whether the "user" is a predetermined user or one of other users. The Prompt et al. reference simply does not disclose the claimed dictionary registering unit for storing common information accessible by all users, and personal information, through a personal dictionary registering unit, accessibly only by the predetermined user.

The Examiner also contends that the claimed dictionary reference unit that outputs personal information to the predetermined user and accepts a selection of the personal data and common data by the predetermined user from the personal information, is disclosed in paragraph [0171] of Prompt et al. The paragraph cited by the Examiner in support of her position merely discloses that the first module accepts user selection of an Object from the corresponding schema previously selected. The user may select attributes to retain each Object and define other restrictions.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, a disclosure that teaches selecting an Object and attributes by a user, simply does not disclose or suggest the claimed dictionary reference unit that outputs personal information to the predetermined user and accepts a selection of the personal data and common data by the predetermined user from the personal information.

The O'Flaherty et al. reference also does not discloses or suggest the claimed dictionary registering unit or the dictionary reference unit of the present invention. For these reasons, the present invention is believed to be allowable over the cited references, even if combined.

Moreover, the Examiner recognizes that Prompt et al. does not disclose the claimed personal table storing unit that stores data as personal data, or the searching unit for searching data from both the personal data and common data based on the selection from the predetermined user.

The O'Flaherty et al. reference discloses a method for controlling collection and dissemination of data stored in a data warehouse. As shown in Fig. 1, data relating to each client is stored in an extended database 106. Through a dataview suite 108, only the portion of the client data specified by the client is made available to a third party application 112 or a business application 110. Changes to the access to the client data are made by the client through a client interface module 122 (see [0037] – [0040]).

The O'Flaherty et al. reference teaches that a client has access to its own personal data stored in a personal database. The reference, however, does not disclose or suggest that the client has access to data of other clients, since data of other clients would also be personal data and not common data. Accordingly, O'Flaherty et al. does not disclose or suggest that the client or a predetermined user is able to select between personal data and common data, since it does not have access to common data.

In the present invention, the search unit performs a search of data from the personal data and the common data based on the selection accepted by the dictionary reference unit (which accepts selection from the predetermined user). Therefore, even if

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the cited references were combined, they still would not disclose or suggest the data searching feature of the present invention. For all these reasons, claims 1, 8, 15 and 18, along with their respective dependent claims are believed to be allowable over the cited references.

Claims 1-5, 7-12 and 14-18 stand rejected under §103 on the basis of Prompt, O'Flaherty et al. and Scanlon. Applicants traverse this rejection for the reasons given with respect to independent claims 1 and 8. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants believe that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The examiner should call applicants' attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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January 7, 2008

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